Entered at N V P C as Second-class Mail Matte



"I WONDER IF IT'S LOADED!"



A FISHY EXCUSE.

TEACHER .- What do you want to go out for, Willy? WILLY TROUT .- Please, Ma'am, I want to get a drink of

A FABLE.

EE THE Man! How worn he looks! His broad. bulging Brow is wrinkled like the front side of a Washboard and his Nose is actually pale with Misery. Who is he, and has he a terrible Pain concealed somewhere about his Person?

Oh! He is just an average Statesman, of the kind we usually send to the Legislature because we are tired of having them loafing around. Day before yesterday he discovered a Sensible Paragraph

in the Fool Bill he is desirous of introducing; and he has been thinking, thinking, thinking, Night and Day, ever since, trying to find a Substitute for that one Gleam of Wisdom that will sound Sonorous and mean absolutely Nothing.

From this we *should* Learn several Great Truths, but will not learn any at all. We, you know, are The People and our Voice is the *Vox Dei*. We already know it all and can not be taught anything, either by Painful Experience or otherwise; thus it is our invariable Habit to use much less Caution in selections. ing our Lawmakers than we do in picking out a Watermelon or buying a Calf. Tom P. Morgan.

TOOK EXCEPTION.

There was the sound of a crashing window-sash.
"Police! Help! Thieves!" shouted an excited voice from the sixth floor of the apartment house.

"They don't do inything av th' koind," mumbled Officer Riley, turning over for another nap. "This ain't Chicago."

GUILT.

As was usual, the directors of the road were hanged for manslaughter.

Of course, they were only remotely to blame for the wreck.

The engineer was color-blind. He admitted under oath that in his youth he had read the supplements of the Sunday papers. Yet the art editors of these papers go and come as they will, and brazenly hold their heads as high as anybody.

DANGEROUS.

Hong Kong Chinaman.—But we might learn to make these goods ourselves, instead of importing them.

PEKIN CHINAMAN.—I'm afraid that would be considered an unfriendly act and might lead to demands for further indemnity.

A NATURAL EFFECT.

"The stock market was rather feverish to-day." "What's the matter? Undigested securities?"



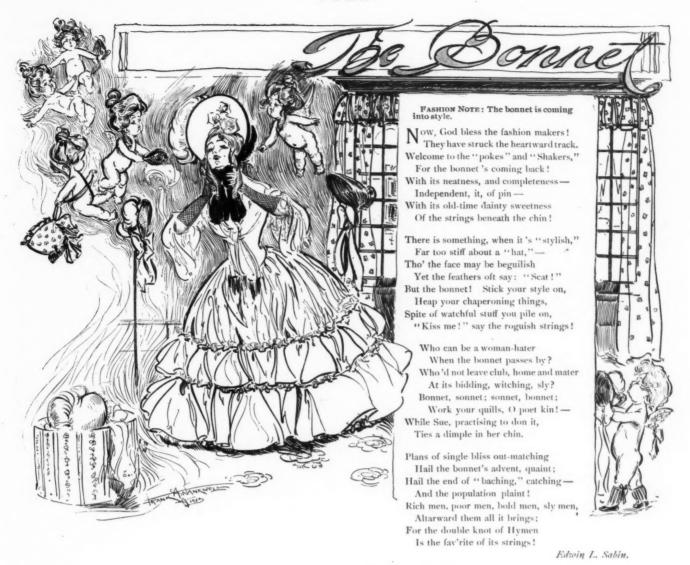
HE FINDS COMFORT.

THE CONNAISSEUR. - One of ze most deesteengueesh' men of ze

time and ze ancestor of ze well known family of ze same name.

Mr. Gotrox.—Gee, whiz! It sort of reconciles a man to havin' a lot of ancestors that never got their pictures took!

eople who want to make trouble can make a great deal out of very little material.



RESPONDED TOO SOON.

HIS AUNT.- John, why did you enter the ministry? John.—Because, dear Aunt, I was called. His Aunt.—Are you sure, John, that it was n't some other

noise you heard?

PENALTIES OF GREATNESS.

Crawford.—I suppose his fame has made him happy.
Crabshaw.—Not quite. Ever since he became famous he has been worrying himself trying to originate a deathbed epigram to deliver as his last words.



A SCORNFUL SUGGESTION.

- "She 's de leadin' soprano. I 'se seen her referred to as a black Patti."
 "Wal, ef she 's a black Patti, I t'ink she oughter gib jes' one farewell pe'fo'mance an' stop right dar!"

TWO IN AN AUTO.

HEN Sue Sweete prepared to go out with Percy Cranke in his new auto she donned her most fetching bib and tucker, in order to encourage what she trusted must be the inevit-

able—Percy's proposal.

Thus, a bewitching vision of smiles and laces, she deftly tripped into the cart—and although

Percy was at the instant bent over examining something in the neighborhood of the off rear axle, she reflected that a poor beginning might have a good end-

ing.
Away they whirled.

"Oh! Is n't this "I 'd like to ride delicious!" sighed Sue. forever!"

"But you could n't, you know," informed Percy, eagerly. "Forty miles is all I 've got the machine charged for."

This was disappointing; such a prosaic answer when he might have replied in poetry!

"Anyway, I love—," began Sue, again.

"Sh! Sh! Sh! please," interrupted Percy.

And he seemed to be listening attentively. thought the action sounded queer," he explained, in a moment. "Go ahead. What

were you saying?"

"I just love—," resumed Sue.

Percy suddenly brought the auto to a stop and hastily leaped out. He crawled around underneath the vehicle and emerged, all dusty, on the other side.

"I did hear something! It was the squeegee bar to the pincrank lever!" he announced, triumphantly; and, shedding dust, he clambered in. "It had worked loose," he added. "With a new auto one has to be on the watch till all gets adjusted.

"Now I'm going to let her out a notch," he remarked. Immediately the auto set off faster and faster. The gait waxed terrific. Sand flew—and settled in Sue's ears and hair in a sort of cement; the wind blew her locks seventeen ways for Sunday; her face got grimy and her hat crooked. Of course, she had no chance to talk, and Percy was entirely engrossed with various levers.

if she was not a regular fright, herself.

Finally they slowed down.
"Wasn't that great!" exclaimed Percy. Helooked like a mulatto.
"My! Grand!" agreed Sue, enthusiastically—and wondering

They had come to the end of the pavement and were entering a shaded roadway through a woodland. The air was soft and Springlike, and all Nature spoke of love.

"Would you mind sitting over just an inch or so?" ind Percy. "This confounded shut-off lever is so stiff that quired Percy. 've got to have plenty of elbow room in case we meet a skittish team."

Sue hitched over.
"Thank you!" said Percy, his eyes upon the road in front.



A CONCLUSIVE ARGUMENT.

HER HUSBAND. - I believe diamonds have gone up fifteen per cent. SHE. - Well, then, I think we ought to buy. Just think how economical we will feel if somebody should corner the market!

Thus they proceeded in silence until they emerged into open country again; here Percy heaved a sigh as of relief.
"I 'm glad we 're out of it!" he declared. "I always hate

DOGGING HIS STEPS.



"Believe in Hypnotism? Of course I do! Why, I could make you both believe you are dogs and have you follow me all the way home. Try it? Certainly!



"A few passes, thus—and you feel my power already.



"Now you're dogs—a pug and a grey-hound. Come along, old fellows, we have only four miles to go.



When my wife and family see this, they will believe me a man of some importance.



THE DOGS .- Bow -- Gr-r-r -- Wow



My! - I believe they must have gone

a shaded road, because horses scare quicker, then, when we meet 'em."

"Oh!" commented Sue. Auto riding seemed too earnest a pastime—too earnest, altogether. However, she did not despair.

"Why did n't you come up night before last? I was expecting

you," she ventured.

"The take-in pinion of the gear connection needed filing down a little; so you see I could n't get away in time," he answered. "I staid at home all the evening!" she pouted-cracking her

grime.

"The pinion ought not to have acted-up so soon," he asserted, with a wise shake of his head. "I 'm going to have the company furnish me a new one."

"May I work the lever?" she cooed.
"Well—perhaps you'd better not, if you don't mind my saying so," he replied, thoughtfully. "I'm a licensed chauffeur and the law is that I can't let anybody but myself operate the machine. We chauffeurs have to be mighty careful. "Now we'll spurt!"

he said, cheerily, as if to make amends. Whir-r-r! On leaped the auto, and again the dust flew and the wind blew, while Percy, like an inexorable demon, clutched the levers and, crouching forward, sternly glared ahead.

Whir-r-r-! And Sue shut tight her eyes and her mouth, and waited.

There was a rattle and a series of clicks, and the auto came to an abrupt standstill. Percy fairly tumbled out and disappeared un-derneath, as on a former occasion.

"It's that takein pinion!"he announced, still invisible.

He crawled into sight for a second and then scuttled

back once more and hammered with a stone, so that the whole vehicle shook.

"I can't fix it!" at last he declared, suddenly bobbing up into view from between the wheels upon Sue's right. "We're stuck!"
"Won't it go?" asked Sue, in alarm.

"Nop!" assured Percy, in a matter-of-fact tone. "Pinion's busted square in two; I'll have to wait for a tow.

"Lucky we're not far from the car line, though," he continued. "There's the end of the Forest Avenue electric-just across the field, you see. You won't mind going alone, will you? I'd hardly like to leave the machine."

"Oh, no; not at all! Don't leave the auto, by any means!" responded Sue, briskly descending and tripping for the field.

"I'll watch you!" called Percy.

May be he did; but when she looked back once he was nowhere to be seen, and probably was under the cart.

Sue Sweete did not marry Percy Cranke. She married John Boggs, who was mortally afraid of an auto and could not be induced to enter one,

and did n't know anything about

them, anyway!

Edwin L. Sabin.



The old farmer's cordiality took the bunco man quite aback.

"Have n't you made some mis-take?" faltered faltered

the latter.
"Not 't all!"
replied the farm-"I reckon yew don't like yer pie tew crusty, no more 'n anybody else, b'gosh!"

It was evident the glad spirit of the season was strong upon him.

It is only by calling it highchurch ritualism that physical culture can be brought to the favorable notice of some women.



A MILD PROTEST.

"Ketch her givin' you anything! She 'll tell yer dat a healthy man like you ought to go to woik!'

"Well, little goil, we can't all be invalids!"



IN THE MIDST OF PACKING.

MRS. TROTTER.—I don't know what 's the matter with these slippers. HER HUSBAND.—Perhaps they 're large enough.



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CARTOONS AND COMMENTS.

ATELY examined before the Inter-State Commerce ACCUSING L ATELY examined before the Inter-base Coal Trust Commission, President Baer of the Coal Trust UNJUSTLY. grew vexed. He kept his temper as long as possible and then, with manifest impatience, denied his rumored connection with "a gang of Conspirators." And, indeed, it seems to us, Mr. And, indeed, it seems to us, Mr. king a protest. He is not a con-Baer was fully justified in making a protest. Conspirators, if dictionaries and melodramas speak truly, are secretive in their labors. If they are bent on violating or evading a law, they do not proclaim it from the housetops, or even from the second-story window. They accomplish their ends by a subtle craftiness which, in stage land, is prefaced by a "Hist!" In brief, there is, in their nature, none of the frank openheartedness which characterized, throughout, the Baer testimony. Mr. Baer was a witness against himself. There is a standing accusation that, knowingly, the Coal Trust, of which he is head, encourages acts that the Law dislikes. A conspirator, on the witness stand, would have squirmed and equivocated. Not so Mr. Baer. He admitted that the Trust's control of the coal trade is absolute. He admitted that the Trust's control of the coal trade is absolute. He admitted that the railroads, which carry coal to tidewater, are part of the Trust's equipment. He admitted that roads are merged and mines combined for the very profitable purpose of killing competition and regulating prices. And he made other admissions, with equal candor; but these, being the principal ones, will suffice. They indicate, and plainly, that whatever else Mr. Baer may be, a conspirator he surely is not. Those who claim that he is, moreover, would be totally at a loss to describe, at all adequately, the gentlemen who formed the Northern Securities Company. In a smaller degree, formed the Northern Securities Company. In a smaller degree they essayed to do in the West what Mr. Baer and his associates have so successfully done in the East - namely, the merging of railroads; but, unlike Mr. Baer, they did not frankly admit that the death warrant of competition was all they sought. Instead, they parried, argued and attempted to justify. Had they employed the Baer method and candidly explained and confided, they might now be enjoying the same immunity from National Commerce Laws that the Coal Trust seems to enjoy. So the Moral of it all is simply this: Never be a conspirator.

ORATORY'S TO THE Honorable William J. Stone of Missouri, the nation is greatly indebted.

Effectively has he contributed to his country's declamatory literature. "I fear them not," the gentleman said, referring to his heartless accusers; "I laugh in their faces and spit upon them." Dismissing as immaterial the physiological inconvenience of doing both these acts at once—though Senator Stone, of course, may be free from ordinary limitations—we admire the outburst for its rhetorical vigor. No mere relation between its author and a bribery scandal can dim its lustre or douse its fire. Especially, after Bryan, in the comparative of common, has labeled Senator Stone "an acceptable" candidate for the presidency. His words will stay put. As the utterance of a sample "acceptable," they show that American oratory, born of Adams and Patrick Henry and fostered by Webster and Henry Clay, has suffered no deterioration at the hands—or rather, at the larynx—of Gumshoe Bill. Publishers of school "speakers" and editors of "Famous Quotations" should rouse themselves immediately and issue adequate supplements. The boy who, for fifty years, has been sinking or

swimming, living or dying, surviving or perishing and giving his hand and his heart "to this vote," unquestionably deserves a new and worthy successor to that veteran of the school-house rostrum. This, we submit, the Honorable William J. Stone has already supplied.

MORE GERMAN
HEROES.

ONCE MORE has Emperor William gone in the decorating business. The first occasion was two years ago, when Count

Waldersee returned from China to receive the degree of Hero. The second came quite recently, when all officers who took part in the Venezuelan bombardment were summoned to headquarters and annexed to medals. Various orders of this or that were freely distributed, but as far as we could ascertain, there was no such lavish display of honors as awaited the fortunate Waldersee. The decorations, in short, while tasteful, were not elaborate. What professional jealousies this difference will provoke, time will ultimately disclose to all who are interested; but right here do we deem it wise to state that, in our opinion, there should have been no discrimination at all. What was sauce for Waldersee should have been sauce as well for the conquerors of Castro. Indeed, if any favoritism was due, it belonged to the latter. When Waldersee sailed for China, the hostilities there were about over, a little Christian pillaging and vandalism alone remaining to be practiced. naval veterans of Venezuela, in at least one instance, if not in more, were in actual danger of being hit by something. While German guns battered down the Venezuelan forts, German officers knew not at what moment some homeless, half-spent bullet from the shore would fall exhausted on the deck at their feet. Still, with reports of this fearful carnage before him, the Kaiser gave medals, and medals only. Where were the banquets, the processions, the kisses that made Count Waldersee's return a national triumph? Waldersee, who with all his Chinese experience, never faced the leaden hail of the tropics. But enough! it is a debate for Germans, not for Americans. To us, however, one thought grows, naturally and serenely, from the news of the Kaiser's decorating. If he gives medals for achievements like Waldersee's and the Venezuelan veterans', what emoluments he would shower upon a real fighter!

It is painfully evident that the prayers with which political conventions are opened are not usually answered.



RENEWED APPRECIATION.

"Does it not make one feel zat life ees worth living?"

"It does, by gum! An' that 's how it makes the fellers feel that has to dodge it!"



AOTTMANN LITH CO PUCK BLDG NY

TOO LAT



TOO LATE.

thy did you not come sooner—before I was pledged to Telramund?

THE CHAIR OF PRACTICAL LIVING.

"Never," said the yellow-headed professor, "cultivate a stern, fixed and immobile countenance. It is a fine thing for a bust on a bookcase, or for a picture of a moulder-of-publicopinion and eminent demagogue in a magazine article, but the fact is that a fixed aspect must necessarily go with a single idea; and if you ever conceived another idea, where would you be

"But, to our lesson. And first, I counsel you to give good heed, for the habit of close attention that we acquire at college is of great use to us, you know, when we get outside where there is something to learn.

"At the same time, or, in fact, at any time, if you have Napoleon's talent for abstraction, so that while your professors are discoursing you can sit wrapped in thought,

> you don't want to neglect it. "Yesterday I thought of a splendid idea for to-day's lecture. It was poetical and still deeply philosophical. It was a gentle, sweet, modest thought, and I think it would have commanded attention, but I have forgotten what it was.

"Sometimes a painter sees a sunset fading in the west, but he loses it and never can remember it again; and that is the way with the poets and the musicians and everybody.

few enough fine thoughts in the world, and most of them are lost. All of ours are lost and it seems sort of sad that there is nothing sad

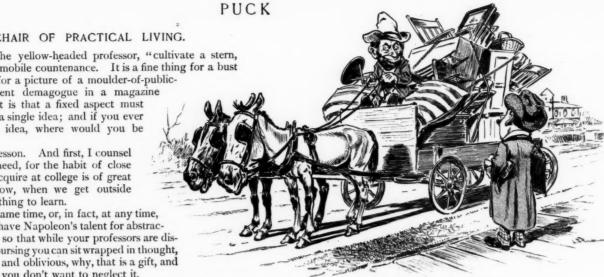
"These matters of education and wisdom on which we are now bent are more or less doubtful or undefined. Some men consider themselves very wise because they have been to college, and some men consider themselves considerably wiser because they have n't.

"It is not unnatural that there should be some skepticism about the college education. The true basis of this skepticism lies deep down in a deep-down professional and professorial secret, which now, with treason black and most unnatural, I will betray.

"In the ancient days when great scholars established colleges their hearts were right in their work, and they resolved immediately to have a regular four - years' course. That was the first

thing they resolved. "Now, it fell out, or fell in, that these ardent spirits did not know enough things to make a four-years' course of. The re-sult was that they had to fill up with a good many things that they did n't know, and a good many things that were n't so, and good many other things (and a good many of the same things) concerning which it was immaterial whether they were so or not.

"These peculiarities have ever since clung to colleges. They have never failed to have a four-years' course. In all the centuries they have never failed in that. Though they did n't have enough



A FORTUNATE PERSON.

Jones is moving, is he?

"Yes. That's the advantage of rentin' a place 'stead of buyin' it."

information on hand to run a night-school through a noon recess, they had a regular four-years' course; but, to confound unbelievers, they called it a curriculum, and they let on that if an ambitious student had the soaring mind and the money to pay his board they

could put him through a post-graduate course besides.
"I can not but reflect that if the wise and grave professors who were so anxious to impart knowledge, had fixed on about a two-weeks' course, including vacations, and had reserved the rest of the four years for going out and learning something themselves, it would

have been a good thing for all hands.
"But they never did this. If they had any spare time they devoted it to exposing the follies and fallacies of the cracker-jack philosophers outside, and to handing a few more LL.D.'s and other segments of the alphabet to politicians and around among them-They also took time to prepare weighty catalogues dividing all knowledge accurately into semesters, and setting forth the fine moral and intellectual atmosphere of the college. It strikes me

that hereafter a good many parents, in reading with awe the list of Professors of Greek, Latin, Sanskrit, Calculus, Least Squares, Civil and Mechanical Engineering, Astronomy, Zoölogy (now we are getting at it), Biology, Botany, Physiology and Bacteriology,

will make bold to inquire if among the list of professors is at least one who is guaranteed to know typhoid fever germs when he sees them, and to have energy enough to make a search and see if the students' drinking-water is principally composed of them. If the catalogues will treat this matter satisfactorily they can fall back and call a semester a term and

admit the stimulating intellectual atmosphere and still do a good

Williston Fish.



SAME THING.

COUNT SPAGETTI (rejected) .- Only time can heal the wound you have made upon my heart. MISS GOTROX .- Quite likely. They say time is money.

El Principe de Gales

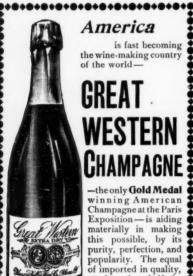


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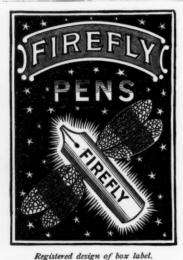
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"Funny thing happened to Laura. George and Henry both have new automobiles and called at the same time to ask her to go riding."
"Which took her?"

"George. He called his a motor car."-Cleveland Plain Dealer.

MISSIONARY (on the Congo).—Why does that poor fellow swathed in bandages seem isolated?

CHIEF.—He has been cut by all his acquaintances.—Princeton Tiger.

"To DECIDE a bet," writes a correspondent, "will you tell me if Shakspere ever said, 'The gallon jug waits?'"

No; he never said it. No heaven-born genius ever lets the gallon jug wait. Atlanta Constitution.

PATIENCE.- I sent a postal card to Will last week and forgot to put his name or address on it.

PATRICE. - Really ?"

PATIENCE.—Yes; he must have thought me stupid when he got it. -

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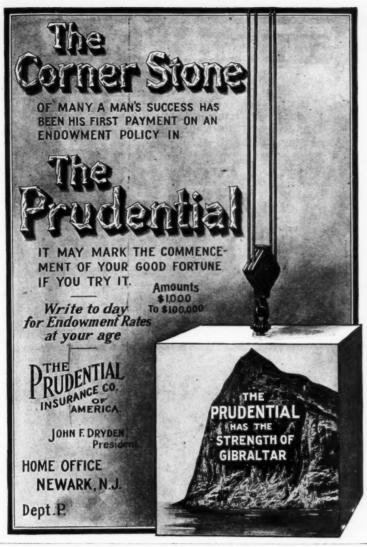
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RAL.

Сниксн.—Why does the ostrich bury his head in the earth? Gotham.—Perhaps he's looking for something in real estate. — Yonkers

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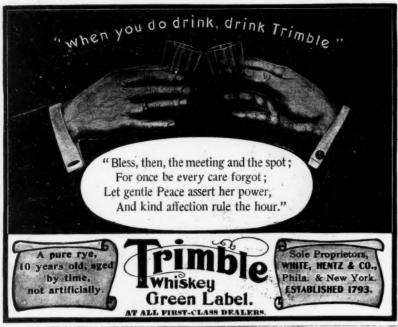
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How HE SQUARED HIMSELF.

MAISIE.—The diamond in this engagement ring is awfully small. MORTON.—I told the jeweler it was for the smallest hand in the city. Detroit Free Press.



THE MAID. - Is n't she foolish not to take me into her confidence? She seems to think she can keep a secret while she keeps a maid.

Puck's Originals for Sale

In response to the many requests for original drawings of pictures that have appeared in PUCK, the Publishers are now selling them to persons wishing them to use for decorative purposes. These drawings by PUCK'S artists are in various methods,—pen-and-ink, "wash," crayon, pencil, etc. The original drawing is from three to four times as large as the printed reproduction.

PUCK has a large selection of these drawings by his staff artists framed and on exhibition in his own art gallery, Puck Building, Houston and Elm Streets, where you are cordially invited to inspect them at any time.

The prices will vary. PUCK will gladly quote price on any drawing you may select. Refer us to it by giving page and number of PUCK in which it appeared. Price will include express charges to

This is an opportunity which many of the admirers of PUCK'S artists have long sought.



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NEW ASTRONOMY.

"Br'er Williams, dev tells me 'at hell is de sun!"

"Well, des raise yo' umbrella en thank God yo' time ain't come yit!" -Atlanta Constitution.

INEFFECTUAL.

"He's a wonderful mathematician."
"Yes," answered Mr. Cumrox; "but what's the use? He can think up a string of figures as long as your arm, but he can't put a dollar-mark in front of them."-Washington Star.



Don't wait until your Cut Their Hands

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Don't you mind a cloudy sky -Any bleak wind blowin'; Here's the Spring, with song and sigh. (Hear the roses growin'?)

Roll, O happy world, on high, Where the stars are hummin'! Brush the cobwebs from the sky. (Here's the sunshine comin'!) -Atlanta Constitution. REDUCED RATES VIA PENNSYL-VANIA RAILROAD.

For the meeting of the Master Plumbers' Association at San Francisco, Cal., May 19th to 22nd, the Pennsylvania Railroad will sell excursion tickets to San Francisco or Los Angeles May 2nd and May 11th to 17th inclusive, good to return until July 15th at reduced rates. These tickets must be validated. dated for return passage, for which the usual fee of fifty cents will be charged.



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THE LANGUAGE OF THE TURF.

"Could n't you get your money down on that race?"
"No."

ity. -

"What was the trouble?"

"I pronounced the name of the horse correctly and the bookmaker could n't understand me."—Washington Star.

"SPENT so much time in hopin' fer de best," said the colored philosopher, "dat w'en de worst come dey did n't rickernize it en shouted 'Halleluia!" Atlanta Constitution.







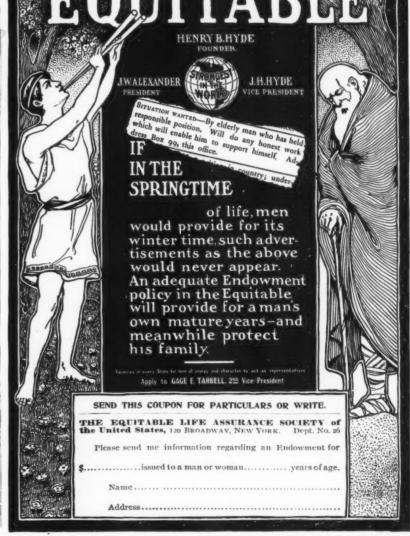
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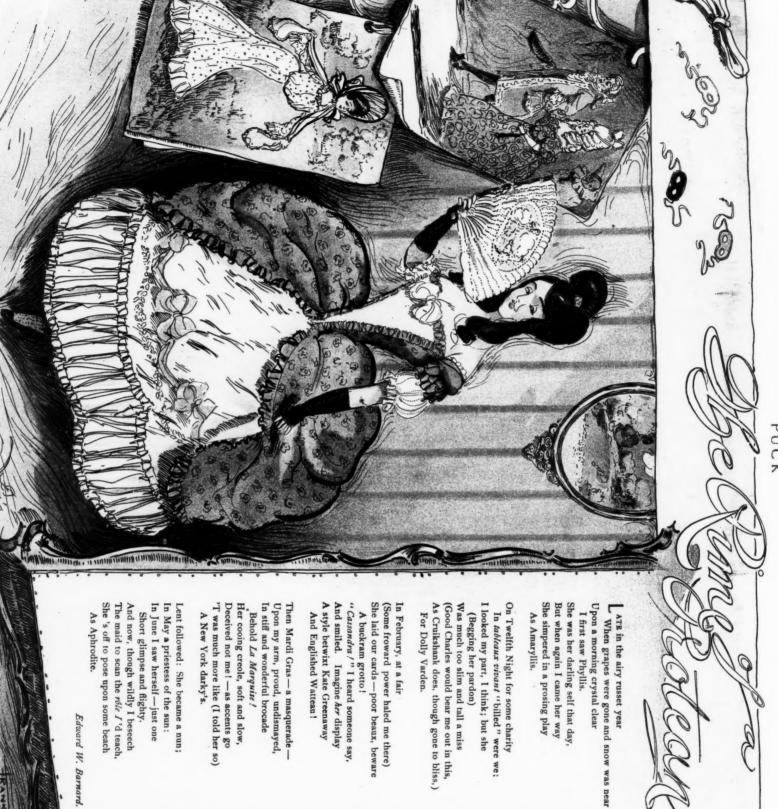


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Deities

Cork Tips as well



In tableaux vivant "billed" were we:

(Good Charles would bear me out in this, As Cruikshank does, though gone to bliss,)

Edward W. Barnard